

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 1500 - HB 1472

February 21, 2014

SUMMARY OF BILL: Adds Houston and Stewart counties to the West Tennessee River Basin Authority (WTRBA) service area and extends the jurisdiction of the authority to include the preservation of the natural flow and function of streams and rivers that flow into the Cumberland, Tennessee, and Mississippi rivers.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Revenue – \$35,000

Increase State Expenditures – \$394,400/FY14-15

\$391,100/FY15-16

\$116,100/FY16-17 and Subsequent Years

Increase Local Expenditures - \$35,000*

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 64-1-1101, the WTRBA is established within the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC).
- According to TDEC, the addition of Houston and Stewart counties into the service area of the WTRBA will require an additional Environmental Protection Specialist 3 (EPS 3) resulting in a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$74,400 (salary and benefits) and \$16,700 (equipment, utilities, travel, annual training, annually updated computer software, etc.), for a total recurring increase in state expenditures of \$91,100 (\$74,400 + \$16,700).
- The one-time increase in state expenditures related to this position is estimated to be \$3,300 (computers, office supplies, etc).
- TDEC estimates the addition of this geographic area to the WTRBA will result in an increase in required maintenance such as gauging streams, bank stabilization, grade control, stream restoration, and storm water detention structures. Such maintenance is estimated to result in an increase in state expenditures of \$215,000 in FY14-15 and \$245,000 in FY15-16, and a recurring increase in state expenditures of \$25,000 for supplies associated with such maintenance.
- TDEC will require the use of contracted professional services for assistance in the maintenance of the new geographic area, resulting in an increase in state expenditures of \$60,000 in FY14-15 and \$30,000 in FY15-16.

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 64-1-1104, counties located within the WTRBA are authorized to levy a tax or appropriate funding from the county general fund to provide for the operation of the authority.
- According to Houston and Stewart Counties, each county will make an appropriation from the county general fund to the WTRBA; TDEC estimates this recurring appropriation will be \$35,000 total from both counties.
- The provisions of the bill will result in a total increase in state expenditures of \$394,400 (\$91,100 salary and supplies + \$215,000 maintenance + \$60,000 contract services + \$25,000 equipment for maintenance + \$3,300 one-time) in FY14-15, \$391,100 (\$91,100 salary and supplies + \$245,000 maintenance + \$30,000 contract services + \$25,000 equipment for maintenance) in FY15-16, and \$116,100 (\$91,100 salary and supplies + \$25,000 for supplies for maintenance) in FY16-17 and subsequent years.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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